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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Monday -- 31 October 1955

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I attended the hearing of the House Judiciary Committee into the possible conflict of interest of Commissioner of Public Buildings, Peter Strobel. Congressmen present were Chairman Celler and Congressmen Keating, Rodino and Fine. The witnesses were Saul Schwarz, General Manager of Strobel & Salzman, Mr. Strobel and the Administrator of GSA Mansure. Testimony from Messrs. Strobel and Schwarz elicited the fact that of a list of 14 proposed architects which PBS submitted to CIA 6 were past or present clients of the Strobel firm and two others had been solicited for business by that firm.

Administrator Mansure agreed that the CIA building was an architectural "plum" and that he had not known of the interest of Mr. Strobel in the architectural firms whose names had been submitted to CIA. He said he felt that Mr. Strobel had not disqualified himself in this matter because it was so early in the proceedings; that nothing had been decided and no action taken on this matter; and that when it came to negotiating a contract he was sure Mr. Strobel would disqualify himself.

Mr. Mansure testified that CIA felt they should have full control of the construction of their building because the money had been appropriated to them and that he had not received any support as yet on his contention that the building should be handled by GSA. The question was asked that if each agency head could select its own architect whether it might become a political "plum". To which Mr. Mansure replied, "That's exactly what we don't want to have happen." Mr. Mansure also testified to his meetings with Morton Blumenthal who was interested in getting business for the New York firm of DeYoung & Moscovitz. It seems apparent that Blumenthal was told that DeYoung & Moscovitz would be considered for the AEC building, but when GSA did not get that building, Mansure seems to have told Strobel to consider them for the CIA building or other construction. The pressure seems to have come on Strobel from Mansure in this case. (cc - DD/S).

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